REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Specification:

The examiner requested that the status of related U.S. applications and patents, and foreign application referenced in the specification be updated. Applicant notes that the status of the referenced applications and patents has not changed. Accordingly, no amendments to the specification have been made in this regard.

Title:

Section 4 of the Office Action objected to the title of the invention as being non-descriptive. Accordingly the title of the invention has been amended to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Drawings:

Section 5 of the Office Action requested that figures 11, 11A, and 13-17 be amended to include additional descriptive labels. Accordingly, the cited figures have been so amended, and replacement sheets including these figures are attached hereto.

Double Patenting:

Section 8 of the Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-21 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants have submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

Section 102(a),(b) Rejection:

Section 10 of the Office Action rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Rowlinson et al., WO 99/66402 (hereinafter "Rowlinson") or 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Garnett, U.S. Patent Number 5,991,900, (hereinafter "Garnett"). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 recites, in pertinent part, "bridge includes a direct memory access controller that is operable to copy blocks of the first processing set indicated in the dirty memory to the main memory of another processing set".

Rowlinson, page 22, lines 31-34, recites "The automatic recovery process includes reintegration of the state of the processing sets to a common status in order to attempt a restart in lockstep. To achieve this, the processing set which asserts itself as the primary processing set as described above copies its complete state to the other processing set. This involves ensuring that the content of the memory of both processors is the same before trying a restart in lockstep mode.

Accordingly Rowlinson teaches one processing set copying its entire memory contents to the memory of another processing set as opposed to a DMA controller included in a bridge performing dirty block copying, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants believe that the invention of claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Rowlinson.

Garnett, column 23, lines 4-6, recites "In stage S42, the primary processor (e.g. processing set 14) copies the whole of its memory 56 to the memory 56 of the other processing set (e.g. processing set 16)". Accordingly Garnett also teaches one processing set copying its entire memory contents to the memory of another processing set as opposed to a DMA controller included in a bridge performing dirty block copying, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants believe that the invention of claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Garnett and Rowlinson, taken either individually or in combination.

Claim 12 recites features, which are similar to those recited in claim 1, and is therefore, likewise believed to patentably distinguish over Garnett and Rowlinson. The applicants assert that the dependent claims (2-11 depending from claim 1, and 13-21 depending from claim 12) are patentable over Garnett and Rowlinson for at least the reasons given with regard to claim 1.
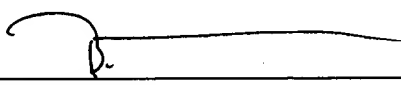
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicants hereby petition for such extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-0270.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☐ Petition for Extension of Time

☐ Notice of Change of Address

☐ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of $ for fees (   )

☒ Replacement Drawing Sheets

Respectfully submitted,

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